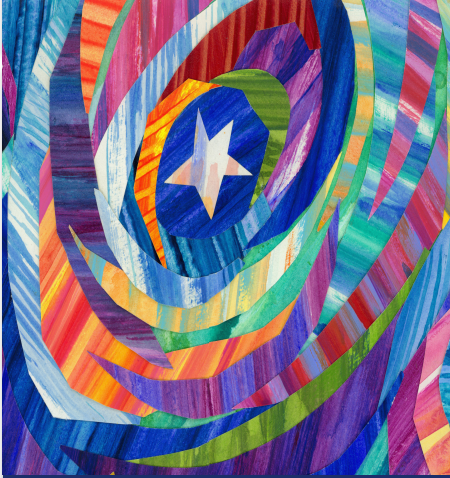


# The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



## Ocean Lullaby

Written by Laura McGee  
Kvasnosky  
Illustrated by Kate Harvey  
McGee

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

Listen to the soft hush and rhythm of ocean waves as animals and small people get drowsy and ready for sleep under the moonlight.

Genre: Picture book/poetry

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Ocean Lullaby* to introduce in your classroom:

soothing  
doze

undulate  
nudge

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Social and Emotional  
Development Item E  
(*Building relationships with  
adults*)

Creative Arts  
Item Z (*Movement*)

Science and Technology  
Item BB  
(*Observing and classifying*)

Social Studies Item FF  
(*Knowledge of self and  
others*)

### Reading Tips

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

This is a lovely book to read slowly as children get settled on cots. Walk around and show pictures to children as they prepare for rest. Whisper the refrain, "Shhh, hush..." Later, as children wake and have snack, re-read the story and ask questions about the animals and where they live and how they prepare to sleep. Compare and contrast with how people do this.

At the end of each reading, display the book in the book area so children can read it on their own.

### Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Have cards with the animals depicted in the book for children to choose how to move during **transitions**.

During **Large Group Time**, move like the animals. Use the book vocabulary to describe the movements (undulate, drift, glide, rock, stretch)

Use animals and people to make “footsteps on the beach” in the Art and Sand and Water Areas at **Work Time**.

### Around the Room

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

Add ocean animals to the **Block Area**, and post real pictures of the animals illustrated in the story. Use the pictures to facilitate discussion on how to create the environment with blocks and other items in the learning environment.

Add, “The Beach Is Loud” by Samantha Cotterill to the **Book Area**.

Add baby blankets and dolls to the **House Area** to encourage sleep-time caregiving pretend play.

### Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Ocean Lullaby*:

*Which animal family in the book would you want to be? Why?*

*What would you want to do at the ocean?*

*How would you sleep in the beach?*

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact*  
***The Family Connection:***

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[www.famconn.org](http://www.famconn.org)

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### @ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Ocean Lullaby* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

Read quietly or in a whisper at bedtime. Add a “sing-song” tone when reading the refrain/chorus that appears in italics. Ask questions about some of the animals. “How does the mommy whale stay close to the baby in the deep ocean?” If moonlight or the moon itself is visible from your child’s bedroom, comment, “The moon is here with us even though we are not at the ocean. How does the moon know where you are?” Hug your child like the adults do in the book. Whisper, “Are you like the octopus dreaming in her cave?” Talk about how people take care of their little ones, and compare this with the animals shown in the story. Ask, “What do you think about that?”